

Serial No.: 09/623,793

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 14-19 under 35 USC §102(e) as unpatentable over Esposito is respectfully requested.

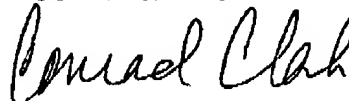
Claim 1 has been amended to highlight the feature of the invention wherein the casing includes a part that receives the plunger and is flexible in the direction of movement of the plunger to allow fluids to be drawn in or expelled by operation of the plunger. Esposito on the other hand, shows an enclosure for a syringe that allows a fluid to be injected into the syringe through the fitting member 50. Esposito does not show a flexible part that would allow the user to operate the plunger. Thus, the device of Esposito is not as convenient to use as is the invention, and nothing in Esposito would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to the invention as now claimed.

Instead, Esposito's positive teaching of injecting fluids into the syringe teaches away from the invention as claimed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any matter remains outstanding.

All necessary extensions of time are requested. Please charge any necessary fees and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully Submitted,
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